



CHARLES L. BROWN DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTRICAL *and* COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Molecular Electronics Devices Using Vapor Phase Assembly

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ITRS 2005 – Emerging Research Devices

<http://public.itrs.net>

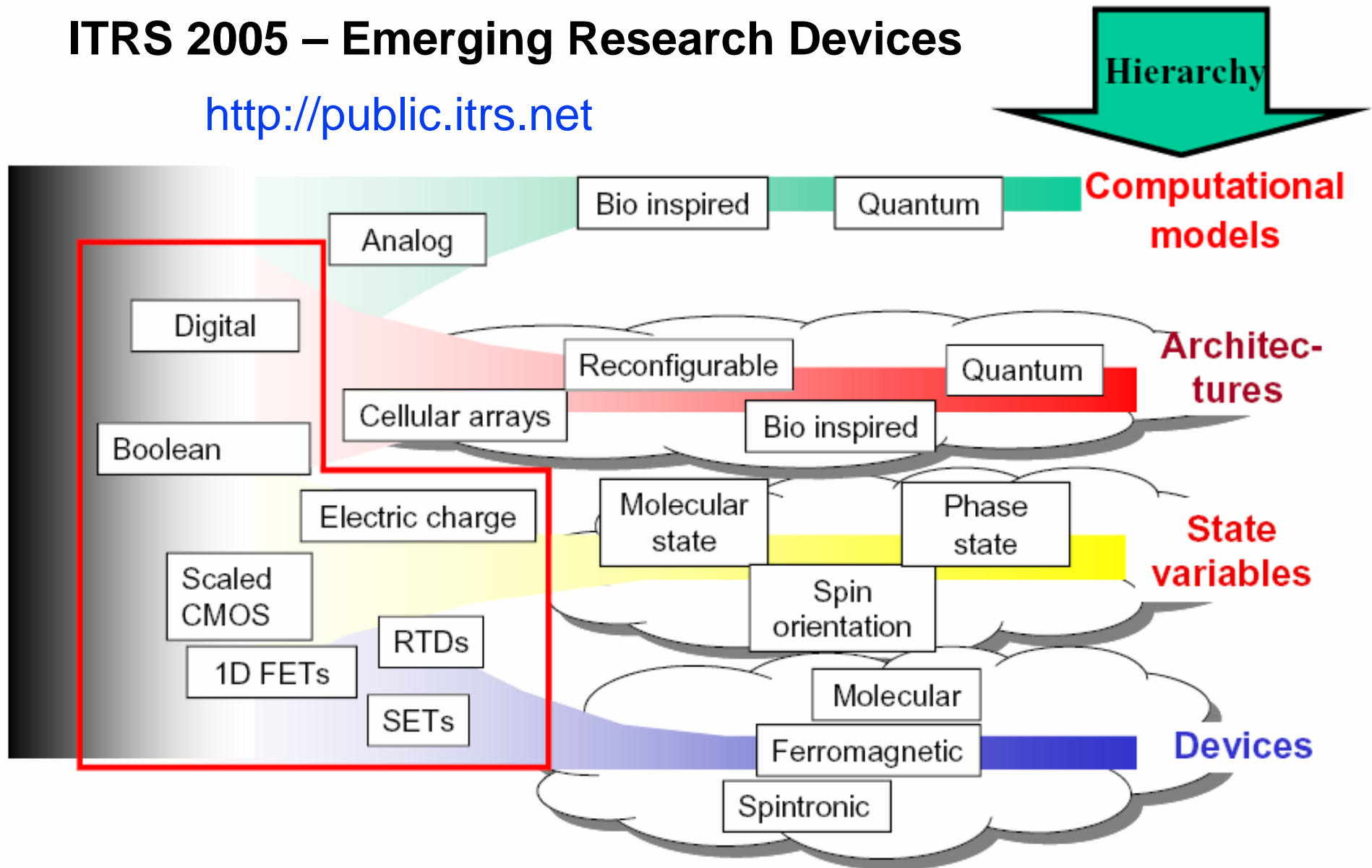
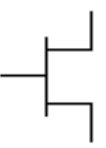
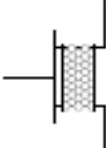
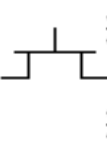
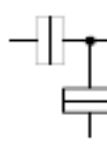


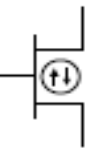


Figure 51 A Taxonomy for Nano Information Processing

Table 59 Emerging Research Logic Devices—Demonstrated Projected Parameters

Device								
		FET [B]	1D structures	Resonant Tunneling Devices	SET	Molecular	Ferromagnetic logic	Spin transistor
Types		Si CMOS	CNT FET NW FET NW hetero-structures Crossbar nanostructure	RTD-FET RTT	SET	Crossbar latch Molecular transistor Molecular QCA	Moving domain wall M: QCA	Spin transistor
Supported Architectures		Conventional	Conventional and Cross-bar	Conventional and CNN	CNN	Cross-bar and QCA	CNN Reconfigure logic and QCA	Conventional
Cell Size (spatial pitch)	Projected	100 nm	100 nm [C]	100 nm [C]	40 nm [L]	10 nm [Q]	140 nm [U]	100 nm [C]
	Demonstrated	590 nm	~1.5 μm [D]	3 μm [H]	~700 nm [M]	~2 μm [R]	250 nm [V, W]	100 μm [X]
Density (device/cm ²)	Projected	1E10	4.5E9	4.5E9	6E10	1E12	5E9	4.5E9
	Demonstrated	2.8E8	4E7	1E7	2E8	2E7	1.6E9	1E4
Switch Speed	Projected	12 THz	6.3 THz [E]	16 THz [I]	10 THz [M]	1 THz [S]	1 GHz [U]	40 GHz [Y]
	Demonstrated	1 THz	200 MHz [F]	700 GHz [J]	2 THz [N]	100 Hz [R]	30 Hz [V, W]	Not known
Circuit Speed	Projected	61 GHz	61 GHz [C]	61 GHz [C]	1 GHz [L]	1 GHz [Q]	10 MHz [U]	Not known
	Demonstrated	5.6 GHz	220 Hz [G]	10 GHz [Z]	1 MHz [F]	100 Hz [R]	30 Hz [V]	Not known
Switching Energy, J	Projected	3E-18	3E-18	>3E-18	1 $\times 10^{-18}$ [L] >1.5 $\times 10^{-17}$ [O]	5E-17 [T]	~1E-17 [V]	3E-18
	Demonstrated	1E-16	1E-11 [G]	1E-13 [K]	8 $\times 10^{-17}$ [P] >1.3 $\times 10^{-14}$ [O]	3E-7 [R]	6E-18 [W]	Not known
Binary Throughput, GBit/ns/cm ²	Projected	238	238 [C]	238 [C]	10	1000	5E-2	Not known
	Demonstrated	1.6	1E-8	0.1	2E-4	2E-9	5E-8	Not known
Operational Temperature		RT	RT	4.2 – 300 K	20 K [L]	RT	RT	RT
Materials System		Si	CNT, Si, Ge, III-V, In ₂ O ₃ , ZnO, TiO ₂ , SiC,	III-V Si-Ge	III-V Si	Organic molecules	Ferromagnetic alloys	Si, III-V, complex metals oxides
Research activity [A]			171	88	65	204	25	102



Molecular Electronics

UVA Team

• Lloyd Harriott	ECE	Nanofabrication
• John Bean	ECE	Processing
• Lin Pu	Chem	Synthesis
• Matt Neurock	ChE	Modeling
• Nathan Swami	ECE	Electrochemistry
• Avik Ghosh	ECE	Theory
• Keith Williams	Physics	Spectroscopy

External Collaborators

• Mark Reed	Yale ECE	Devices
• James Tour	Rice Chem	Molecules
• Curt Richter	NIST	Testing

Funding Support

National Science Foundation NIRT Program
DARPA – MoleApps Program



MOLECULAR RECTIFIERS

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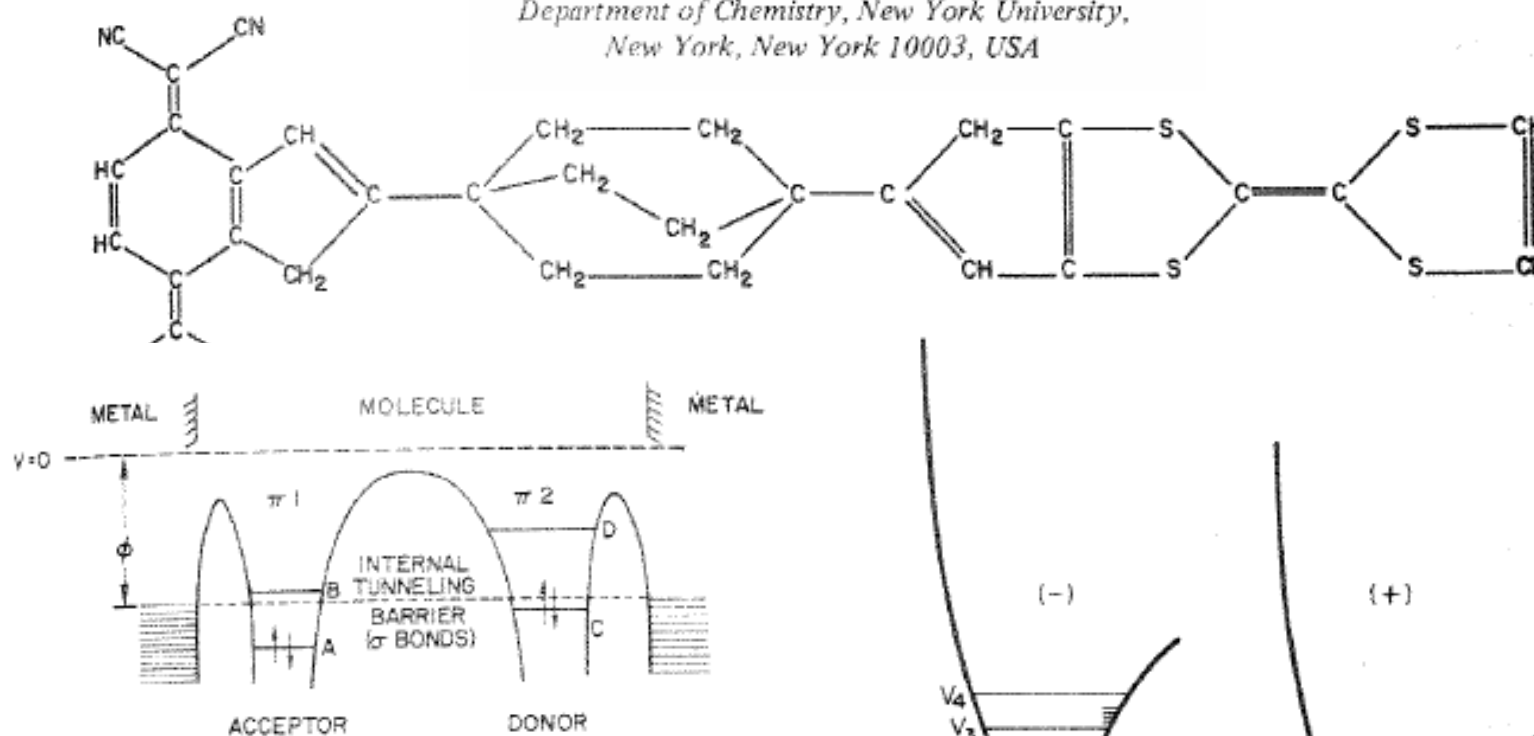


Fig. 3. Energy versus distance of the device (schematic). B and D are the affinity levels and A and C the highest occupied levels, of acceptor and donor, respectively.

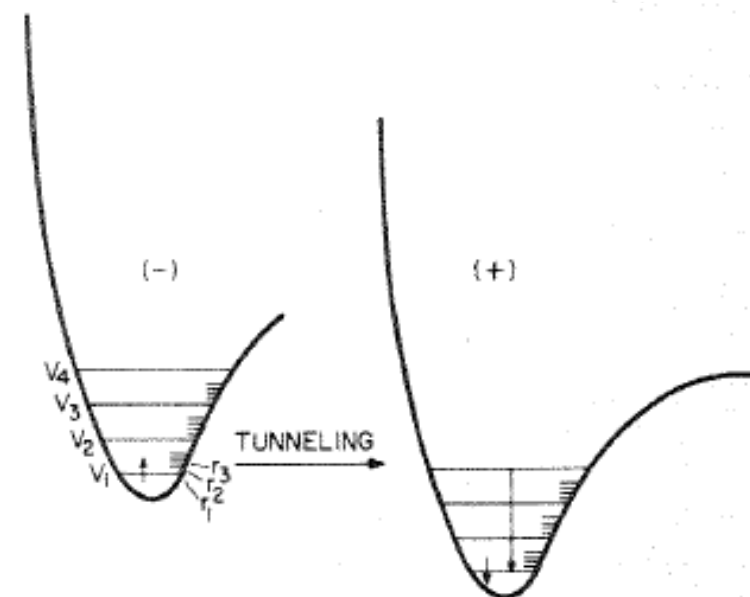
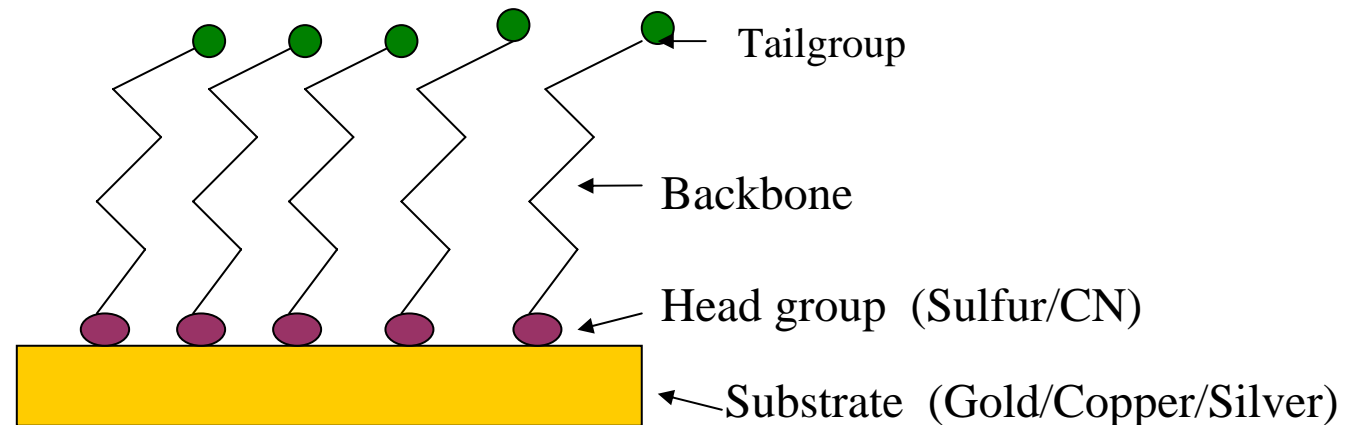


Fig. 5. Internal tunneling.

Why has it taken so long?

- **Difficult to attach “wires” to a single or small number of molecules:**
 - **Self-Assembled Monolayers – Solution and Vapor Phase**
 - **“Top” contact by: SPM, Break Junction, Nanopore**
 - **Not Integrable to circuit**
 - **Tunneling, rectification, NDR, switching, etc. shown**

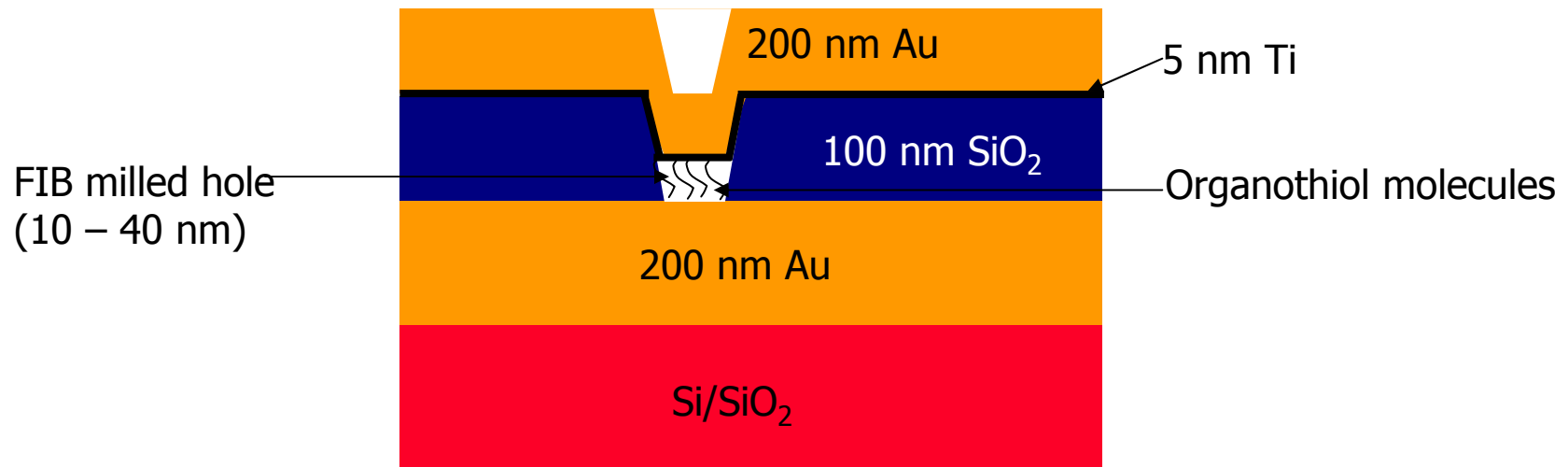




Molecular Electronics at UVA

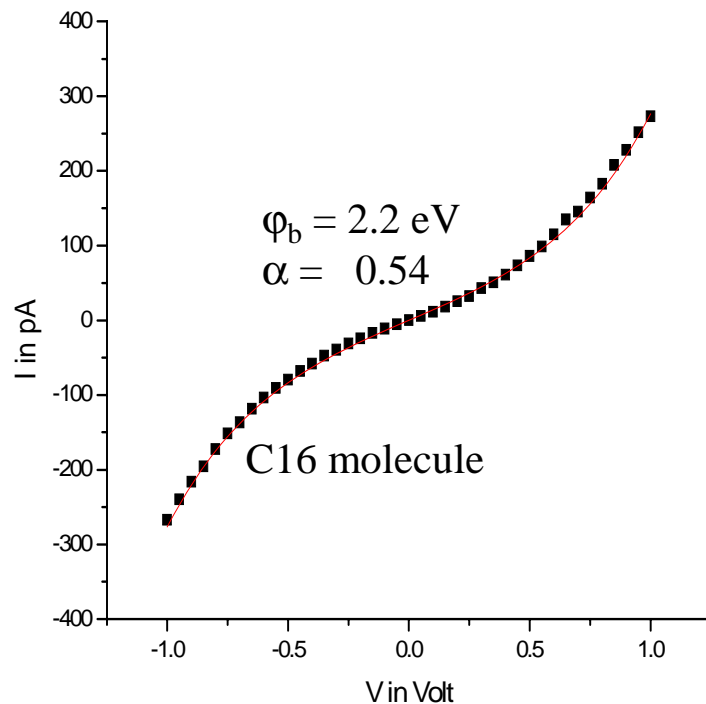
- **Develop Planar Device Structure and Processes**
- **Evaluate candidate molecules**
- **Study transport and switching mechanisms**
- **Develop Circuit models and fabrication schemes**
- **Develop new fabrication methods – Vapor Phase**
- **Simulate Circuit Performance based on device data**
- **Feedback to synthesis and fabrication for improved circuit yield and performance**

Nanowell Device





I-V Characteristics of Alkanethiol Molecules in Nanowell Device

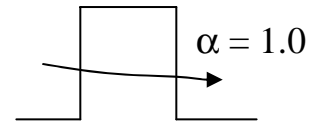


IV characteristics for C16 molecule

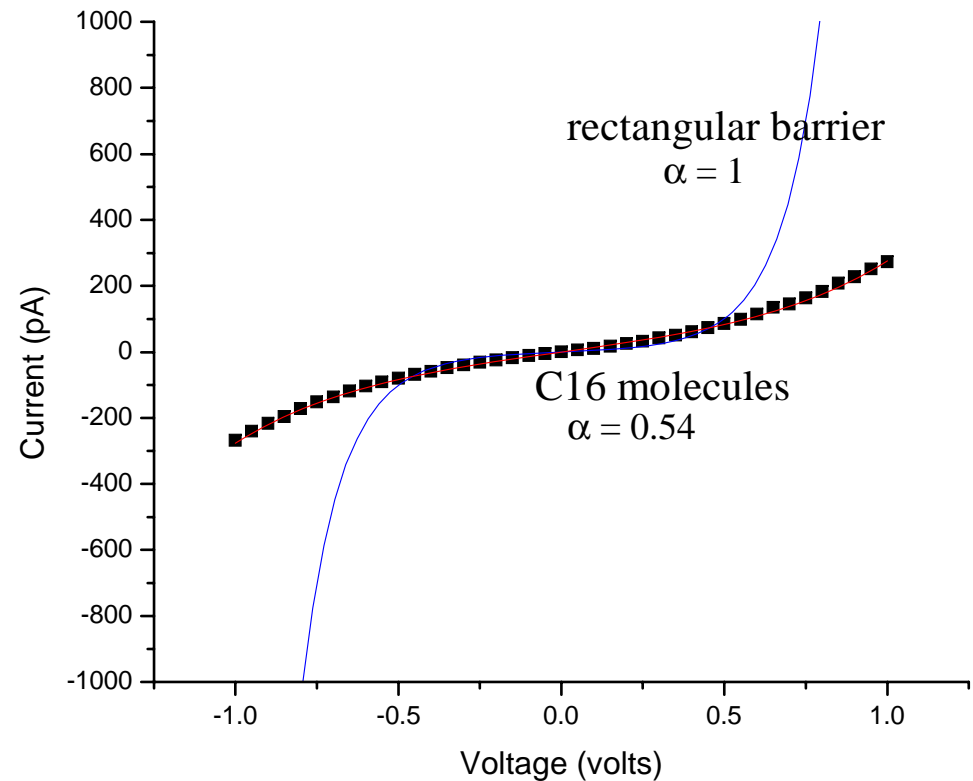
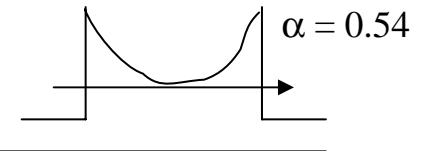
Literature value for α is .65-.68

Ref. Wang et al.

Tunneling through SiO_2/Air



Tunneling through molecules



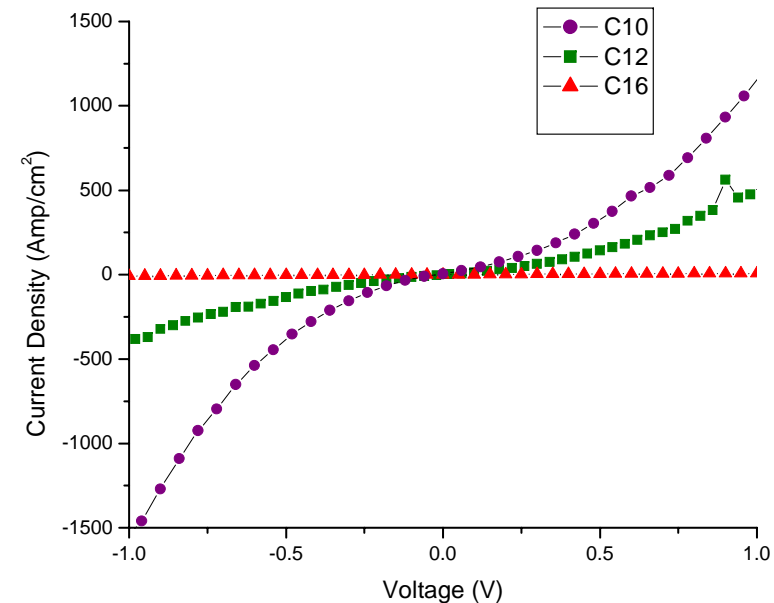
IV characteristics for C16 molecule
And a simulated curve for tunneling through Rectangular barrier



Current Density Vs. Chain-length

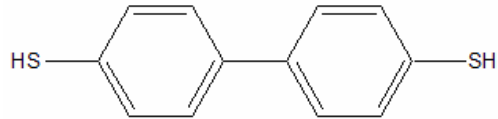
Molecule	Average Φ (eV)	Average α
C16	2.1 +/- 0.1	0.56 +/- 0.02
C12	2.1 +/- 0.1	0.55 +/- 0.05
C8 (monothiol)	2.1 +/- 0.1	0.77 +/- 0.05
C8 (dithiol)	2.05 +/- 0.15	0.72 +/- 0.04
Literature Values	1.42 eV* 2.2 eV*	0.66 for C12* 0.68 for C16*

- W. Wang, T. Lee, and M. A. Reed, *Phys. Rev. B* 68, 035416 (2003)
- + D. J. Wold and C. D. Frisbie, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 123, 5549 (2001)
- ^o X. D. Cui, et al., *Nanotechnology* 13, 5 (2002)

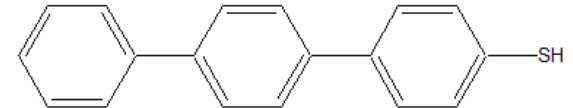
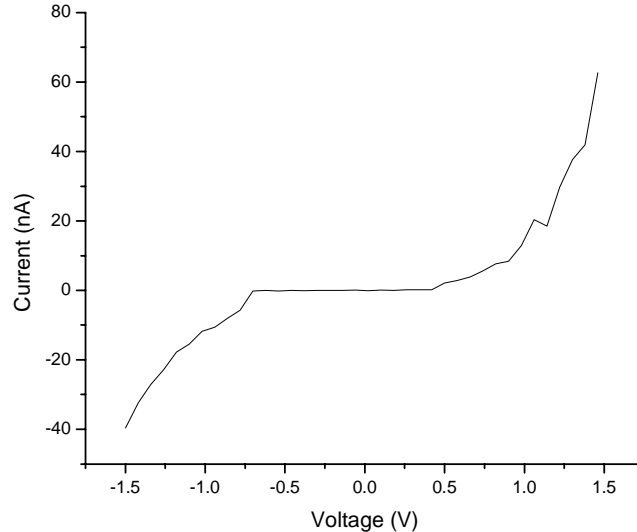


- ♦ Current density has an exponential dependence on chain length
- ♦ Our exponential decay factor $\beta = 0.7$ to $0.75 / \text{\AA}$
literature values : $0.72/\text{\AA}$ to $0.83 / \text{\AA}^*$, $0.8 \pm 0.2 / \text{\AA}^o$

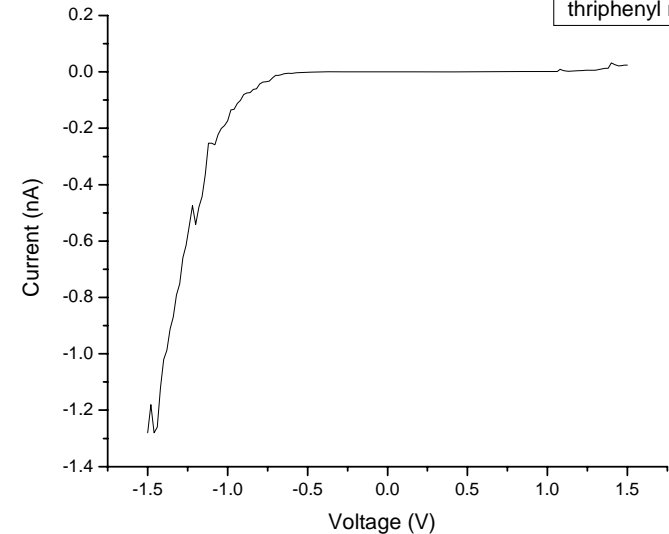
Electrical characteristics of conjugated molecules



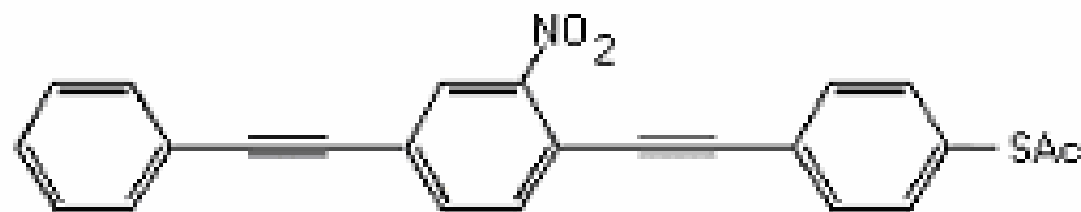
Current through Biphenyl dithiol



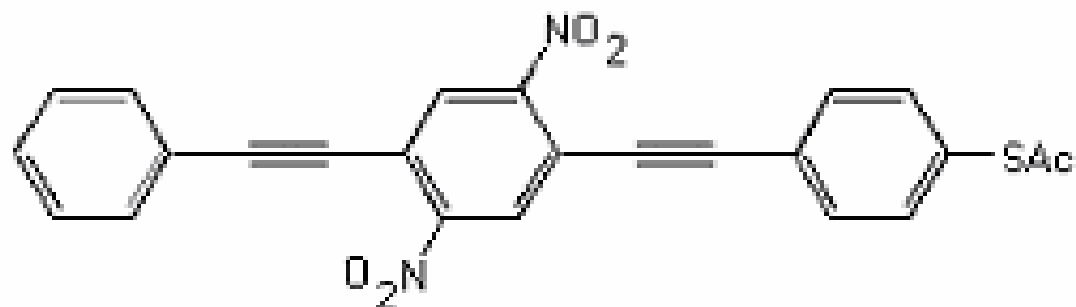
Conduction through triphenyl monothiol



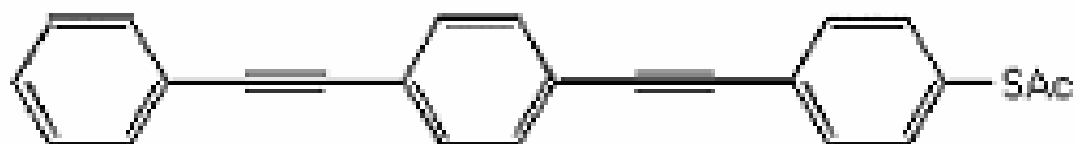
Ref. N. Majumdar et al., J. Vac. Sci. and Technol. B, July-August (2005).



Molecule 1



Molecule 2

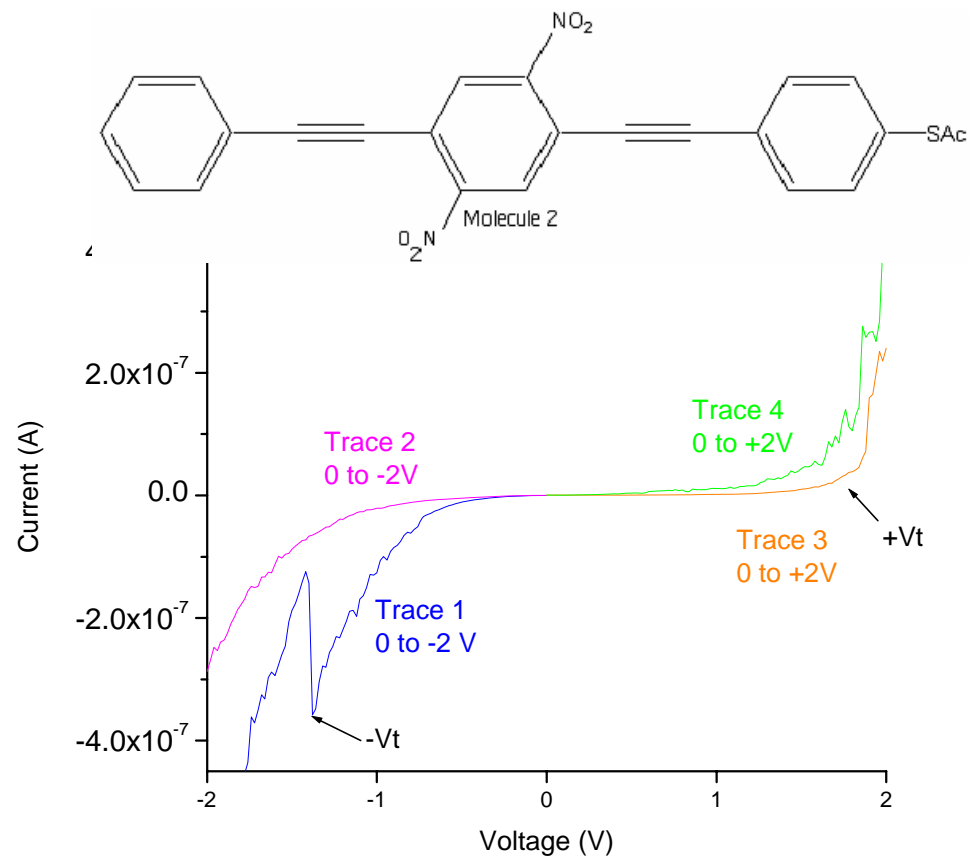
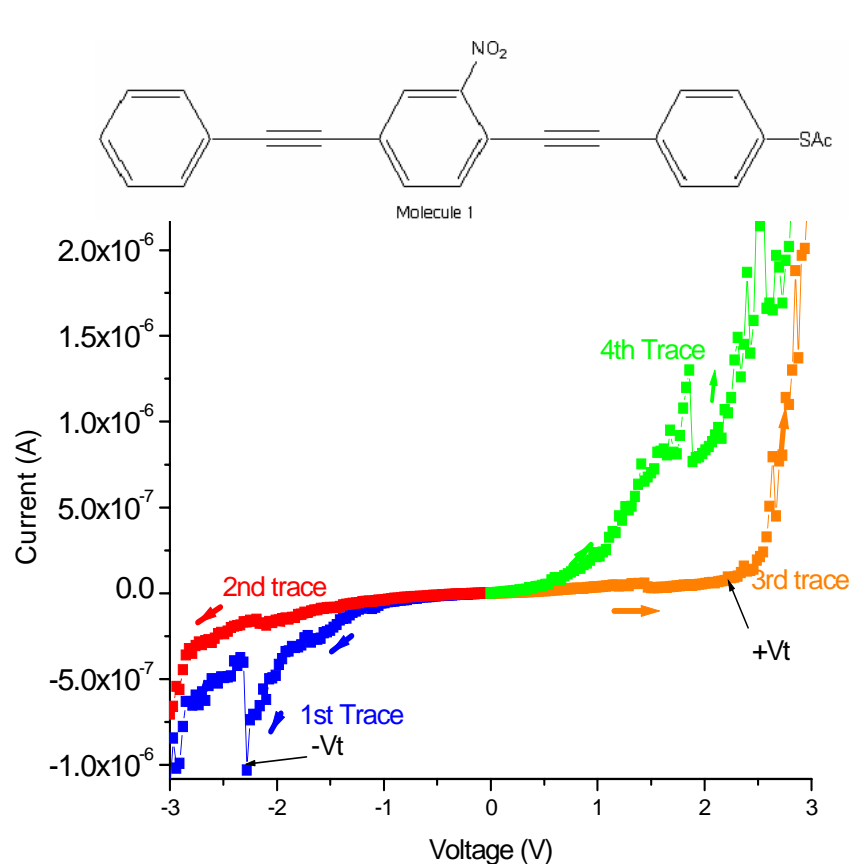


Molecule 3

Three different molecules tested in the nanowell test device. Molecule 1 is an OPE molecule with one nitro side group. Molecule 2 is an OPE molecule with two nitro side groups. Molecule 3 is an OPE molecule with no nitro side groups. The acetate moieties were removed by acid treatment to produce the free thiols for assembly.



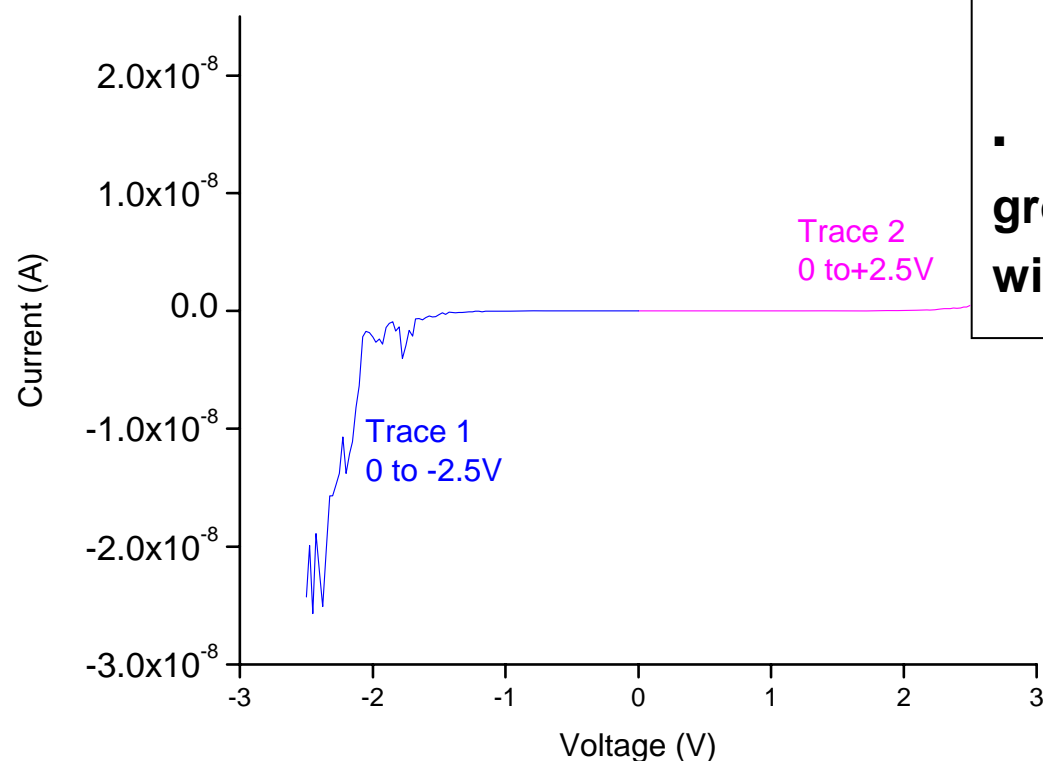
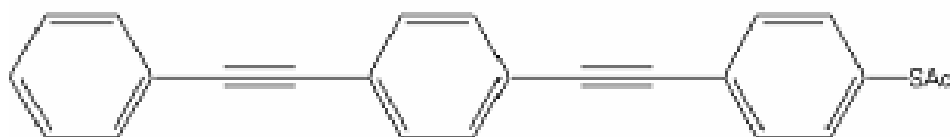
I-V Characteristics from the Nitro Molecule



Ref. N. Gergel et al, J.Vac. Sci. and Technol A, July-August, 2005.

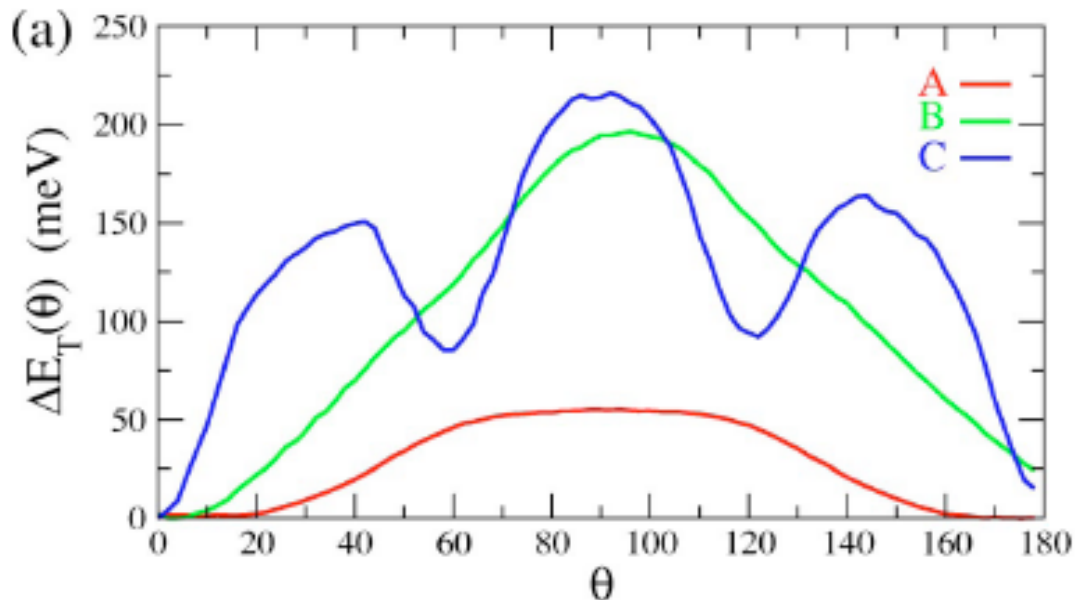


Results from an OPE without the Nitro Group

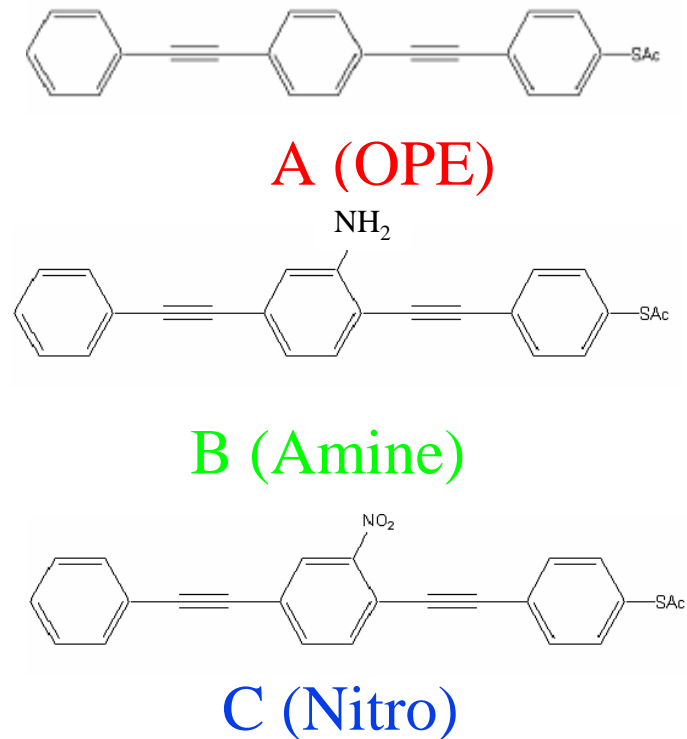


- No switching with memory observed
- Expected rectification behavior observed
- Irreversible break down was seen beyond this voltage range
- **Conclusion:** Presence of nitro group is necessary for switching with memory

Energy vs. rotation angle



**Ref. Stokbro et al.,
Phys. Rev. B 68, 121101 (2003).**



- Twisted configuration at 60° may be stable for only nitro molecules
- This configuration not stable when intermolecular distance increases
- Possible hydrogen bonding stabilizes the twisted conformation

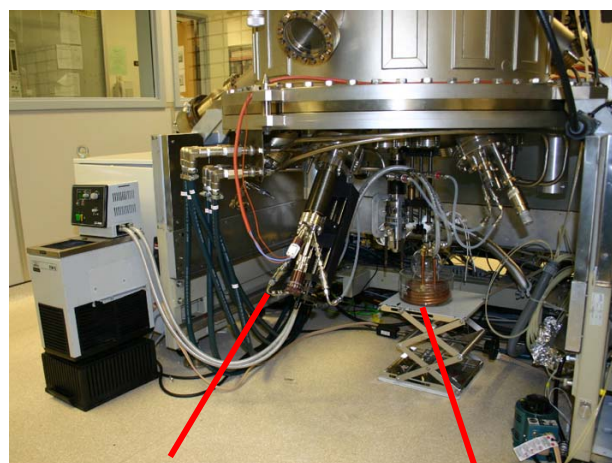
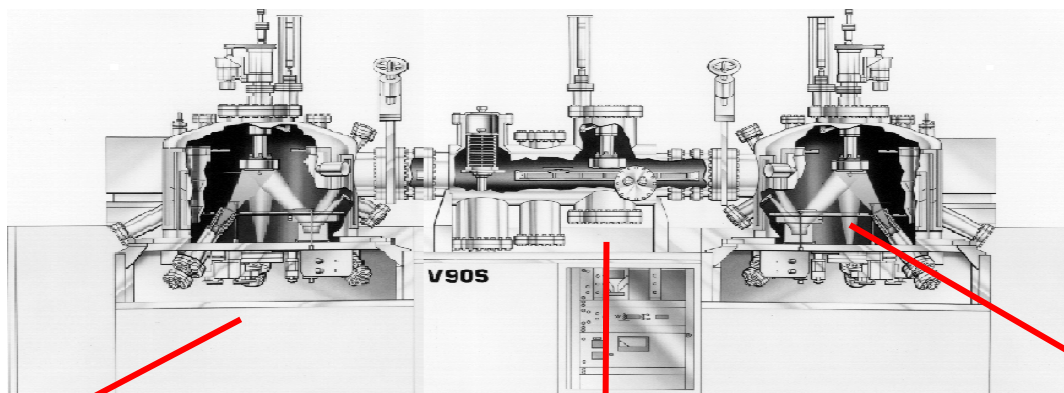


Integration Challenges

- Temperature $<100^{\circ}\text{C}$
- No external force
- No ultrasonic wave application
- Photolithography performed before growing molecules
- Minimum exposure to air

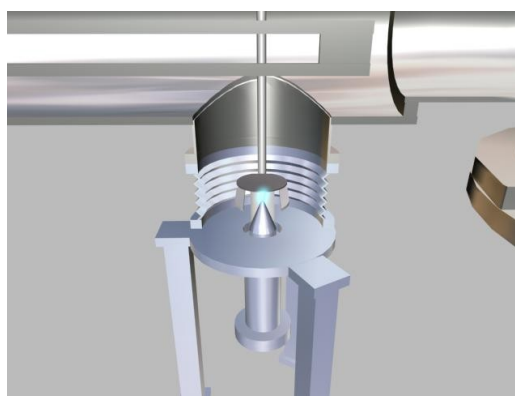


UVA Dual Growth Chamber VPD / MBE System

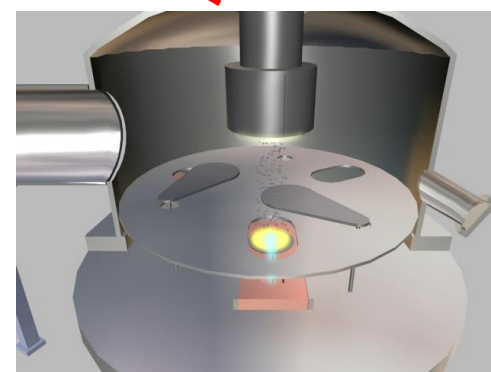


Low T molecular evaporation cell

Liquid molecular leak source & temperature bath

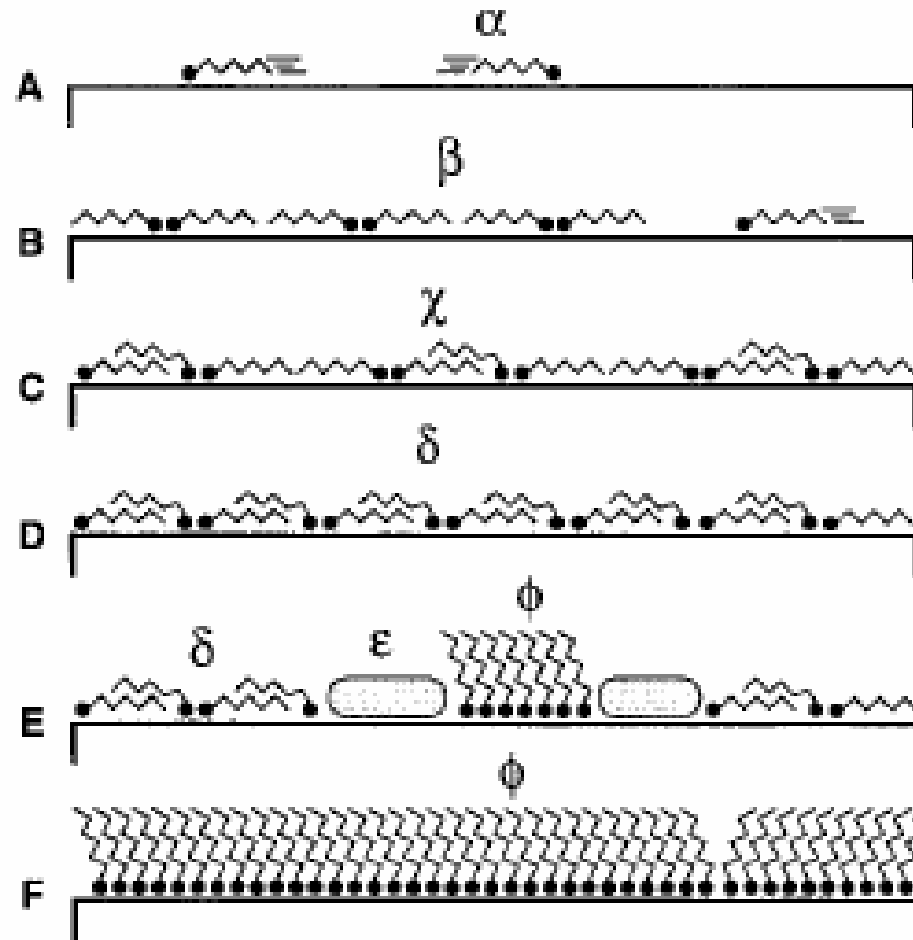


In-situ Ga^+ focused ion beam patterning system (30-50 nm resolution)



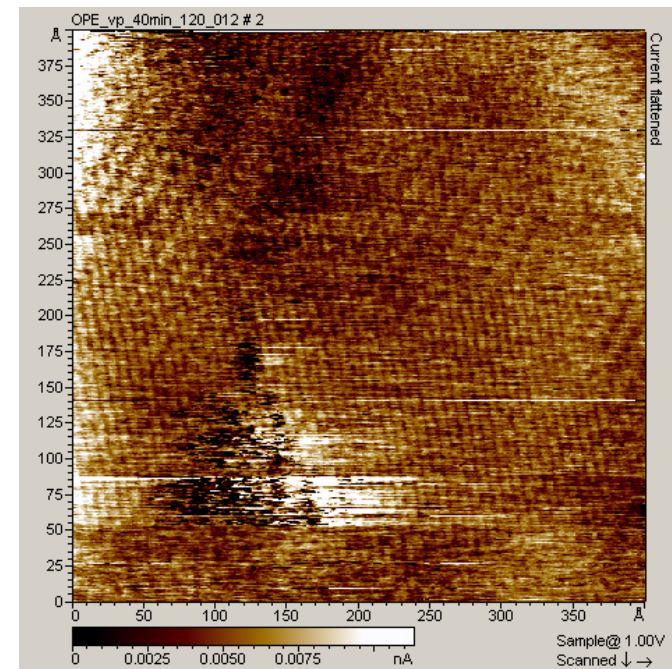
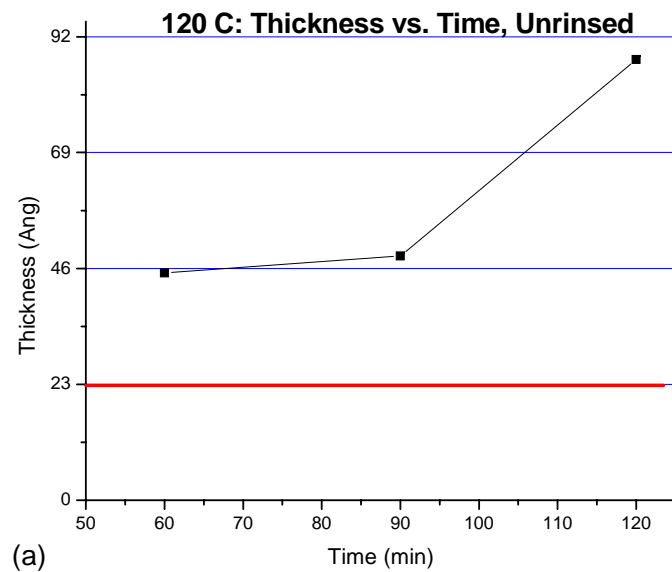
Si / SiGe MBE system w/ dual low-E ion implanter

Self-Assembled Monolayers from Vapor Phase

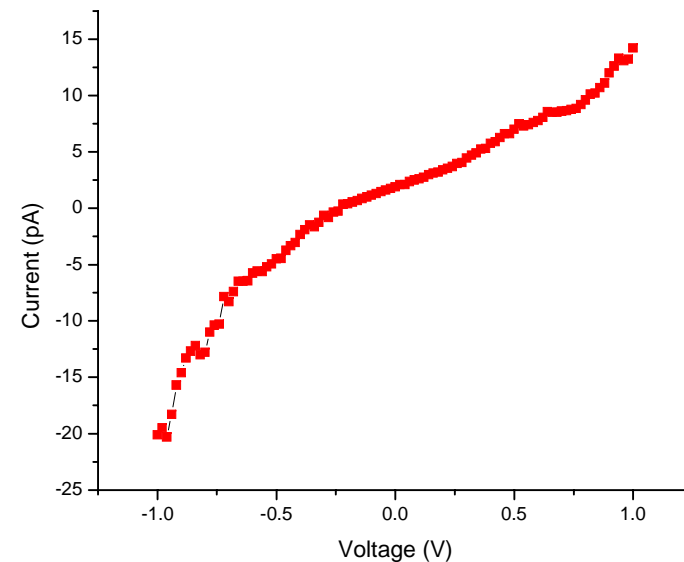
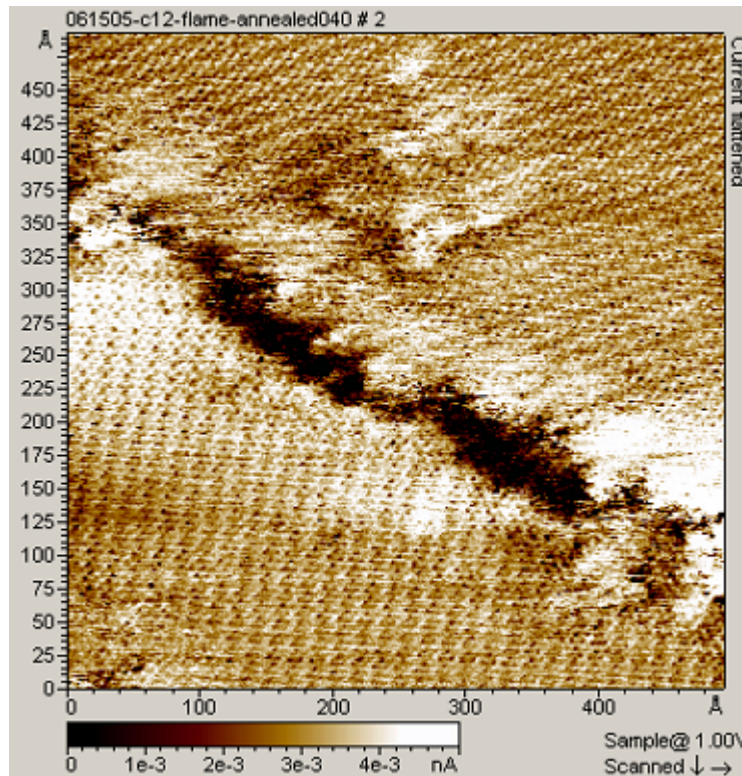


Shreiber, *Progress in Surface Science* **65**, 151(2000).

Vapor Phase OPE Molecule Deposition

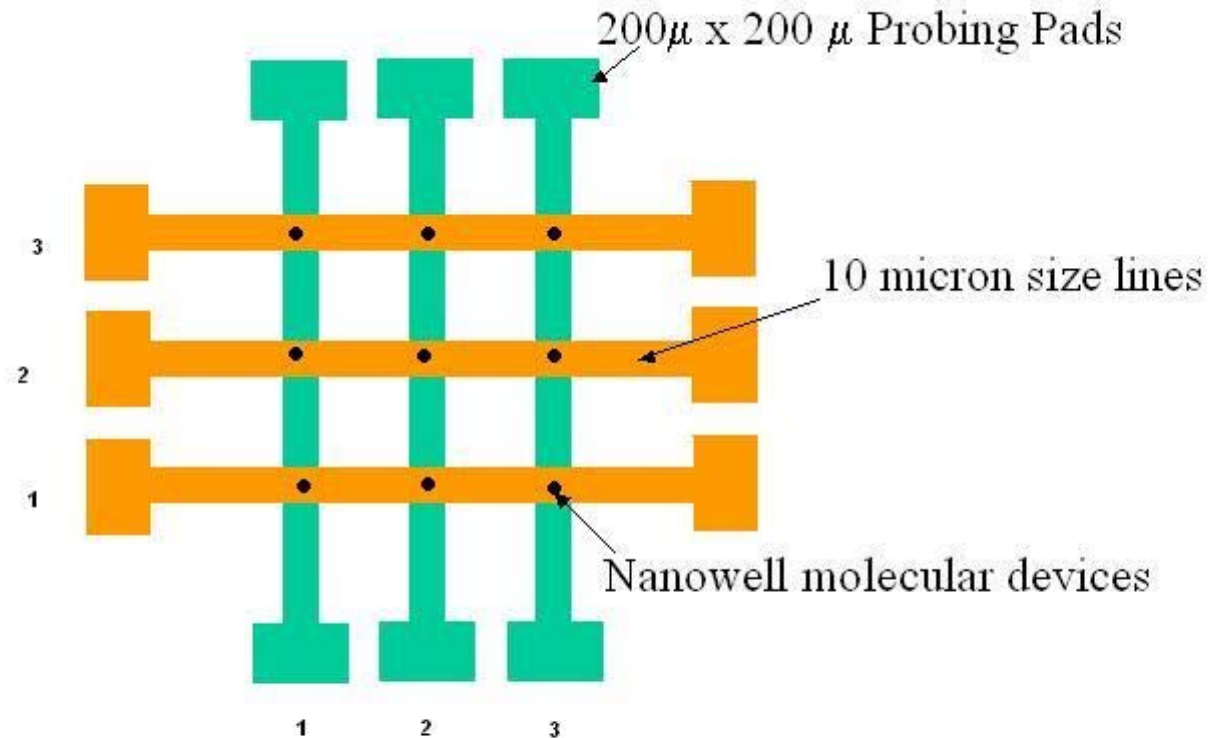


Vapor Phase C12 Alkanethiol Deposition

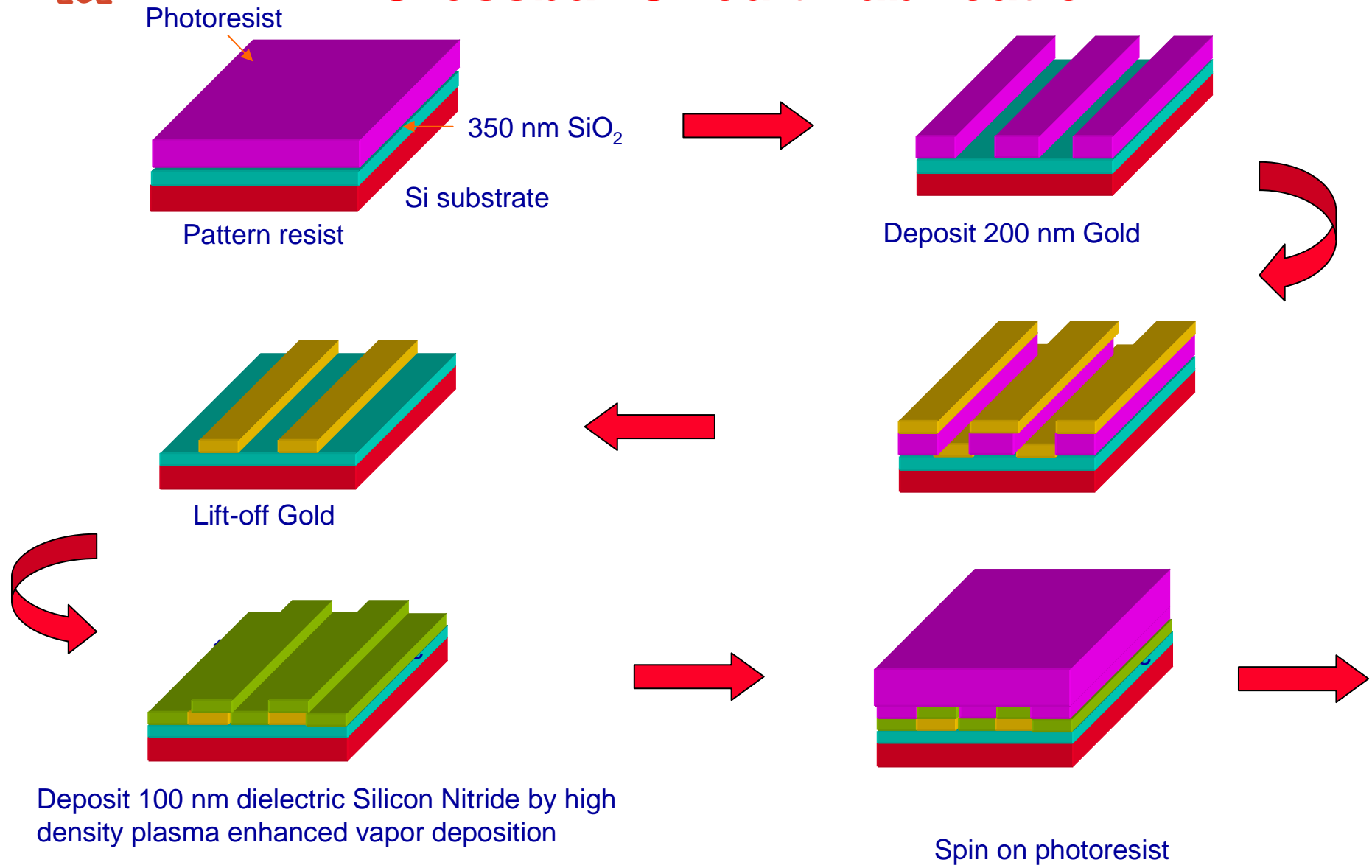


STM image of C12 on flame-annealed Au assembled via vapor phase deposition. I-V characteristic of Nanopore made with vapor deposited C12.

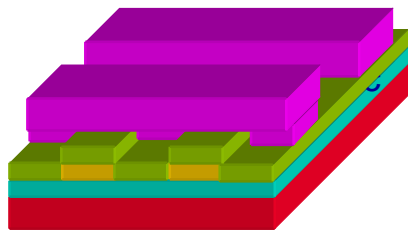
Layout of a 3x3 crossbar circuit



Crossbar Circuit Fabrication



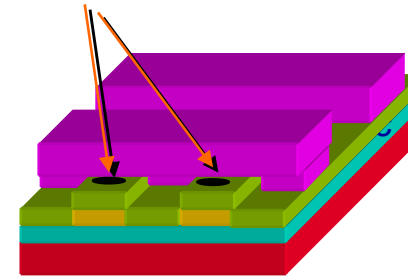
Crossbar Fabrication (cont'd)



Pattern photoresist



Nanowells

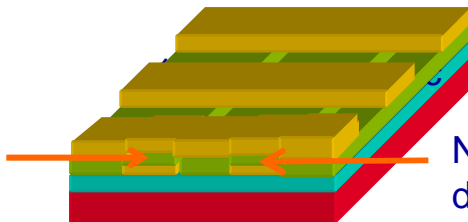


Ion mill 100 nm x 100 nm
nanowells through nitride

Deposit molecules
from vapor phase

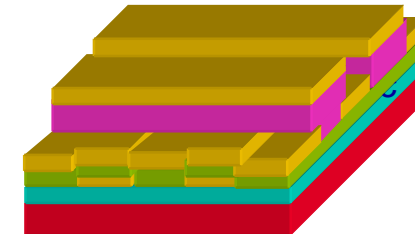


Nanowell
device



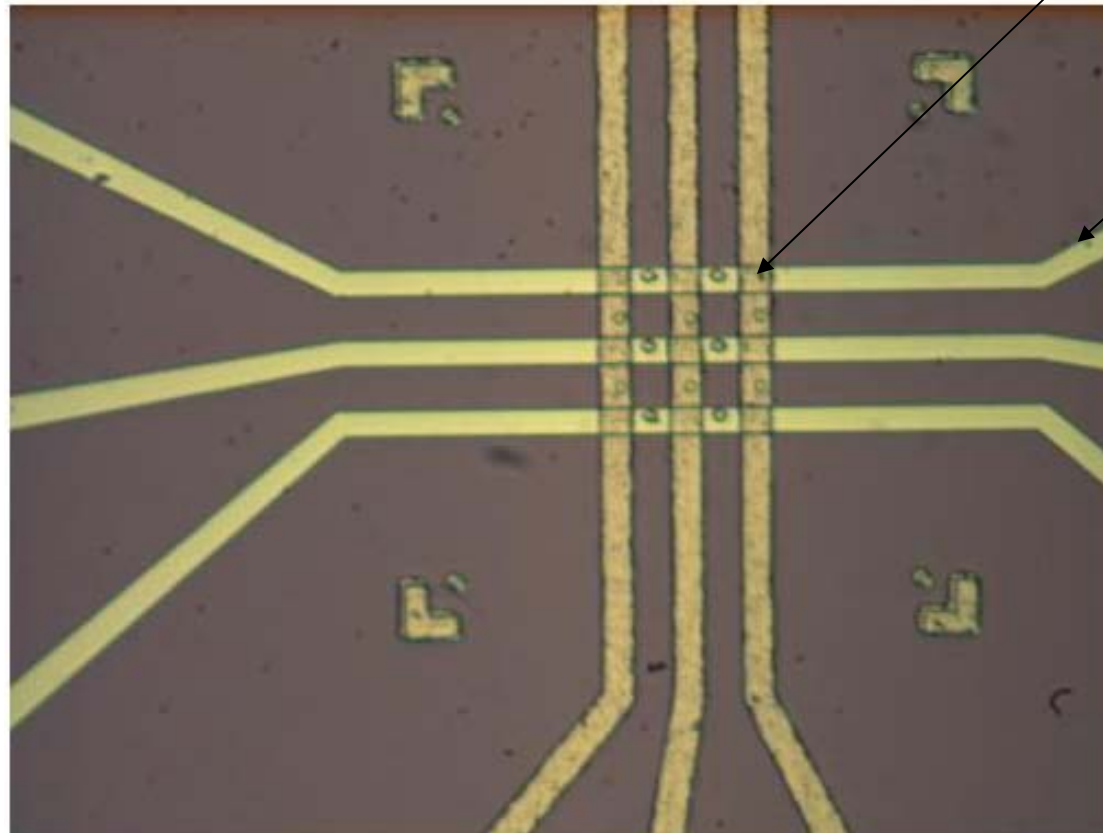
Nanowell
device

Lift-off at room temperature



Deposit 200 nm thick Gold layer

Optical Micrograph of Crossbar

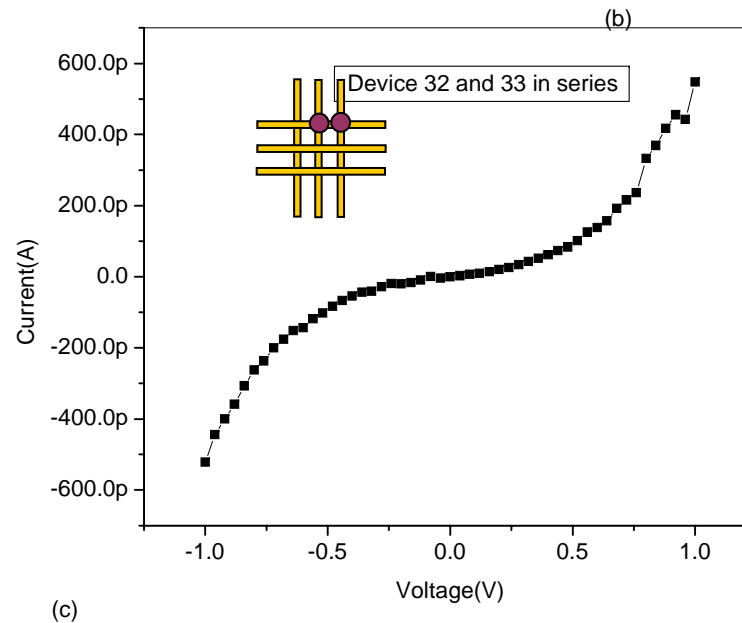
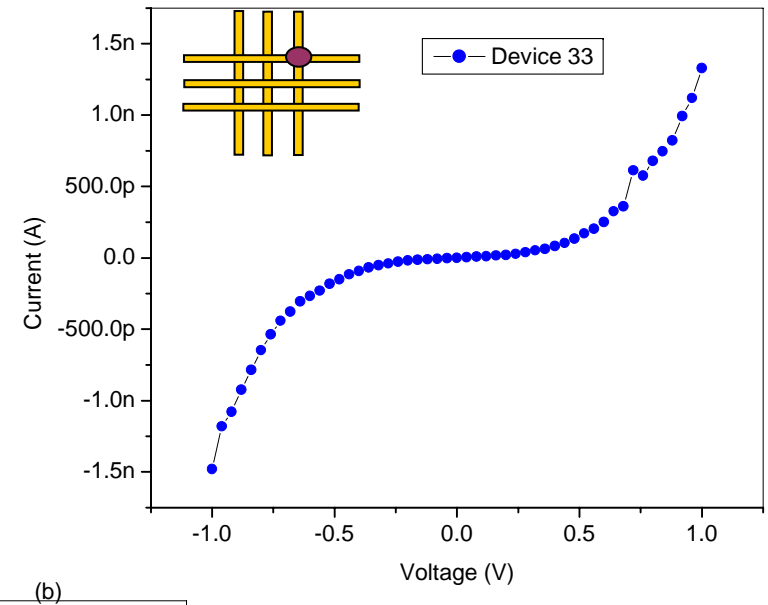
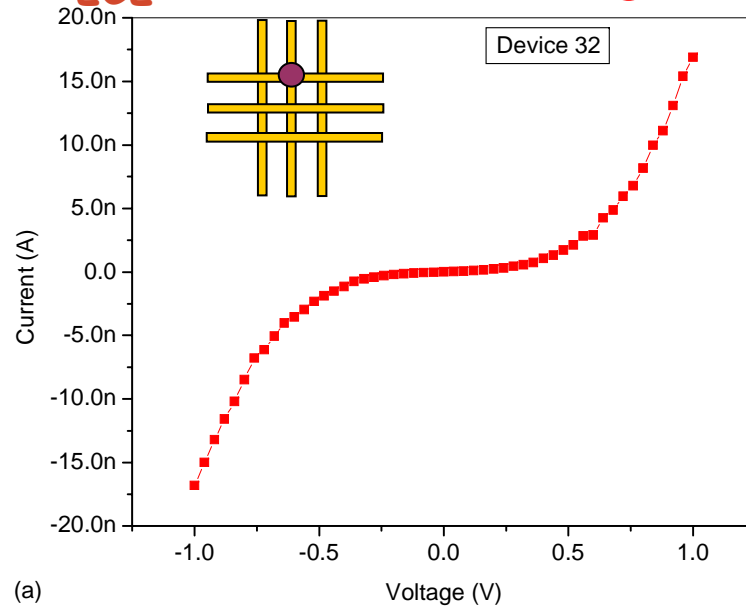


Nanowell devices

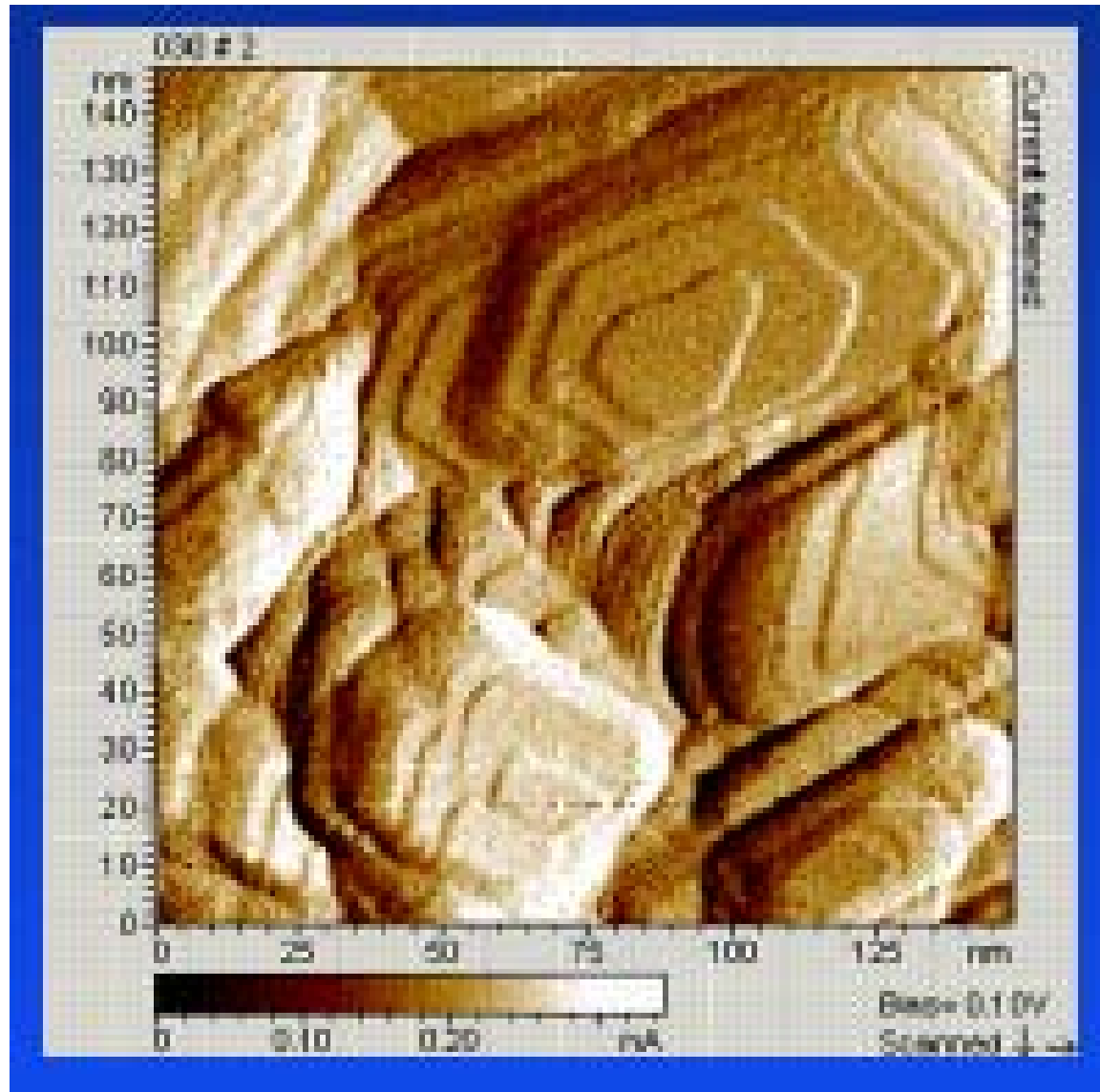
10 μm lines



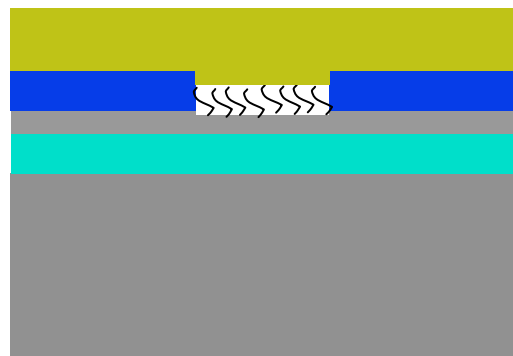
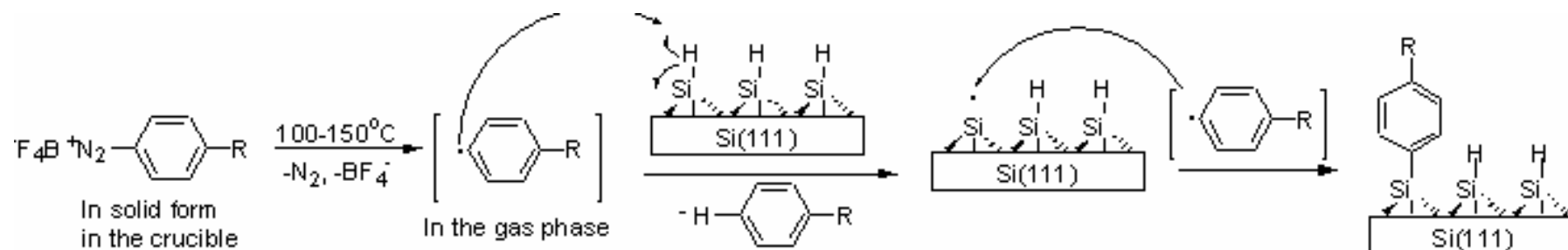
Testing devices connected in series



Polycrystalline Au Limits Yield.....



Vapor Phase Molecular Deposition on Silicon Using Diazonium Chemistry



Si Nanopore

SOI Wafer



Molecular Electronics Summary

- Planar device structure enables many molecules to be evaluated
- Metal-molecule interface is critical
- Switching mechanism experiments consistent with H-bonding model
- Yield limited by polycrystalline metal films - *conductive polymer top contact interlayer*
- Vapor Phase Assembly and planar device enables circuit fabrication
- Vapor Phase Molecular assembly on single-crystal Si, GaAs is very promising

Early Days – Lots of room for improvement